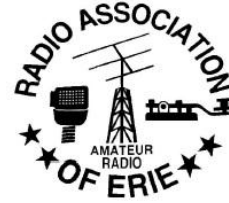




The QUARAE



Volume 13, Issue 3

April 2012

President Says....

SPRING HAS OFFICIALLY SPRUNG AND DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS BACK, LIKE IT OR NOT! THE APRIL CLUB MEETING WILL BE THE LAST MEETING AT THE RED CROSS UNTIL NOVEMBER. CLUB MEETINGS WILL START AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON MAY 3RD. WE WILL CONTINUE DOING THE HOT DOGS BEFORE THE MEETINGS. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MEMBERS DONATE THE DOGS AND BUNS FOR EACH MEETING. I WILL START IT OFF DONATING THE DOGS FOR THE MAY MEETING. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT TO HELP OUT.

THERE IS A SPRING CLEANUP AT THE CLUBHOUSE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14TH. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND HELP OUT IF YOU CAN.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE OF OUR 9PM RAGCHEW NET ON THE REPEATERS. I HAVE BEEN GETTING GOOD RESPONSE FROM THE ECHOLINK CHECK-INS. WE HAVE MANY EX-ERIEITES, SUCH AS DAVE KA3PMW, BETTE N3KFP, LEONARD WB3AYW, JOHN WB3FJP AND DAN K3UFG CHECKING IN QUITE OFTEN. WE HAVE OPS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY VIA ECHOLINK AND EVERY NOW AND THEN MOBILE CHECK-INS FROM SOMEONE TRAVELING THROUGH ERIE. SO PLEASE JOIN US WHETHER IT IS ECHOLINK OR ONE OF THE REPEATERS.

THANKS & 73,

DOUG AD4UL

"Use the Force 12, Luke" Obiwan Kenobi

SEND YOUR ARTICLES, ANECDOTES, PICTURES, LETTERS, COMMENTS, FIRST BORN CHILD TO JOHN LINDVAY (jlindvay@msn.com) TO INCLUDE IN THE NEWSLETTER.

March General Meeting Minutes

A Regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held on March 1, 2012 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. The president and secretary were present. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the chair Doug Sweet AD4UL at 1900. The minutes of the previous meeting (February) were corrected and approved.

Board members absent were N3BXL & KA3UTD. No new hams, 1 visitor KB3ORK Dick. A moment of silence for three silent keys.

Secretary's report was read by KB3THU, a motion was made by Kevin KE3V to accept as corrected. It was seconded and approved, motion carried.

Treasurer's report was read by N3SRF via overhead projector. Membership is now at 83. Budget was also read via overhead. Both reports are attached. Board Of Director's report was unavailable due to absence of Ron Prindle N3BXL.

Membership committee report was unavailable to absence of KA3UTD.

Repeater committee report was discussed heavily. It was Doug's AD4UL final judgment that he would contact Matt and get information passing better. The 440 repeater was out of service due to lack of communication between us and Red Cross. Some



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting – Thursday
Apr 5 at the Red Cross on
Pittsburgh Ave off of W.
Grandview Blvd**

**7:00 PM- General Meeting
Program: BMC Presentation**

agreement was reached with its service. Dick Ferguson retrieved his radio with approval of the Red Cross.

Public service committee report was short, nothing to report on as of yet.

Website – files transferred and a historical page was made.

Newsletter committee report was given by WB3IFD. He has reports that the QUARAE was not downloading, but it was resolved. The QUARAE was very hard to find on the website. The list server was being audited. John, WB3IFD was looking for people to add to the mailing list if anyone was left out.

WB3IFD is always looking for articles to publish. Contact him by email.

Clubhouse committee mentioned the windows still needed replaced. April 14th, 2012 was cleanup day. Contesting committee said the ARRL DXing was upcoming.

Field Day was to possibly take place at clubhouse. There was talk of location location location, but it was the general feeling from everyone else that it was dying participation.

Old business, none

New business, none

Good of the Order in short was code classes going good by WB3DOM. Ragchew net M-F at 9pm on the repeaters was going good, although club membership was low on it. WB3FJP was in our thoughts after his stroke. Ham Radio Deluxe was going to be a purchase item for \$79.95 soon.

50\50 was won by WB3DOM

Motion was made by KE3V to adjourn. It was seconded and approved, motion carried at 2010

“It's not true I had nothing on. I had the radio on.”
Marilyn Monroe

Board Meeting Minutes

A Board of Directors meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held on March 29, 2012 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. The president and secretary were present. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the chair Ron Prindle N3BXL at 1900.

Present were Ron Prindle N3BXL George Younkin N3SRF John Lindvay WB3IFD Ron Seyboldt WB3DOM Adam Kernohan KB3THU and electronically Doug Sweet AD4UL. Absent Frank Henry KB3NAT Craig Hill K3PLV Terry Nemitz KA3UTD

Repeaters and Skywarn- By-Laws- the structure is old and outdated. Allocation to spending is targeted to only maintenance of the repeaters. The club seems to be running good, financially, when the repeaters are running well.

Members- why people in the past have left the RAE and split off to other clubs and the association between the repeaters and the membership. Training is also a variable in the equation. What do the ham radio operators want to bring them back together? Liability insurance- Report from Ron Prindle N3BXL is incomplete. Plenty of legalese. So far liability and personal property seem to be covered very well.

Public Service- W3GV special event was asked for and granted. War of 1812 event is being formed up. There is a room available with most of the equipment, just need about 150 feet of coax.

Finances- the finances should be excluded from publication in the QUARAE. We are also finishing up the yearly 501 (3) C renewals.

April Cleanup- List from John Lindvay WB3IFD to send a list out on the reflector to entice members to participate.

The 440 repeater we are hosting at Wagner Rd. is back on the air. Thank you Ron Prindle N3BXL and Roy Ranowiecki WA3UTN. The oil tanks and windows still need completed out at the clubhouse. Contribution should be made out to W1AW.

Possibly donate a small amount of money to them.

We sponsored the mid power station in the past.

By-laws- the board will be making suggested changes. Notifications will be made and mailed.

Doug Sweet AD4UL will not be at the April regular meeting due to a previous obligation.

Meeting adjourned at 2006.

Adam Kernohan KB3THU

CW Class

There are six of us in the room. KA3CPV, Joe Ponchak, WB3IFD, John Lindvay, K3QBB, Ron Rycek, K3AGS, Andre Suroviec, KB3LZK, Bob Craig, and WB3DOM, Ron Seybolt, our instructor.

Coffee is drank, donuts are eaten and it is time to begin. Ron plugs in the oscillator. It looks like a homebrew rig made in a speaker cabinet. Definitely sounds like tubes. The tone is adjustable and Ron runs it up and down the scales a couple of times, setting it so everyone likes the sound. And he begins.

Didah. Didah. Didah. Dididit Dididit. The dits and dahs gradually become “A”s and “B”s. Don’t try to count the dits and dahs, Ron cautions us. Listen to the rhythm. Learn the sounds. Don’t anticipate what comes next. Ron purposely sends words backwards so we won’t anticipate. The first session Ron introduced us to A,E,R,N,I, AND <AR> . The third session he introduced us to O,S,H,D, and C. After the sixth session he introduced us to U,Y,L,M,P, and G. You would be surprised about the number of words you can make with just a few letters. “Dictate”, “Share the shade tree”, “manipulate”, and “He went to guitar camp and met a silly hippopotamus” come to mind. Ron sends the letters at about 18 words a minute, but the words at 5 to 7 a minute, so you have little time to respond. This is called the Farnsworth method.

The "Farnsworth" method is accomplished by sending the dits and dahs and intra-character spacing at a higher speed, then increasing the inter-character and inter-word spacing to slow the sending speed down to the desired speed.

Put a dash if you didn’t get the letter and that way you won’t lose your place. There is no difference between upper case and lower case with CW.. You really only need to learn a few sounds, 26 sounds for letters, 10 sounds for numbers and 3 or 4 sounds for punctuation.

Why go through the trouble of learning Morse code if you don’t have to? Until 1991, a demonstration of the ability to send and receive Morse code at five words per minute (WPM) was required to receive an amateur radio license for use in the United States from the Federal Communications Commission. Demonstration of this ability was still required for

the privilege to use the HF bands. Until 2000, proficiency at the 20 WPM level was required to receive the highest level of amateur license (Amateur Extra Class); effective April 15, 2000, the FCC reduced the Extra Class requirement to five WPM.^[15] Finally, effective on February 23, 2007, the FCC eliminated the Morse code proficiency requirements from all amateur radio licenses. The FCC eliminated the testing for code five years ago. I personally used code as a Novice (the only way to get on the air) and when I became a General, after going to Buffalo and passing the 13 WPM code test, I went SSB ever since. I never had much fun using code. I believe you actually need to mix code with something else to make it pleasurable. Morse code is only one leg of traditional time tested roots of our hobby. DIY or “do it yourself” in constructing that QRP CW rig kit, trouble shooting it and operating portable from some SOTA “Summits on the Air”, location is the height of pleasure and satisfaction. After working QSO parties for the last few years, I know to get a higher score or work all counties I need to operate CW. Operators with high scores mix CW and SSB. You actually double your points with CW. That county you didn’t get probably had operators that were working only CW.

Some hams think they can get around the problem by using a computer. But a computer has a very hard time decoding CW sent by a wobbly fist. You need grey matter for that. Also when working DX (think low power, CW signals travel farther) you need only know a few Q signals rather than trying to decipher the accent. Another advantage is the CW portion of the band is never very crowded. You can easily find a spot to operate.

Practice. Practice. Practice. Attend a class. Check out the CW portion of the bands. You can find CW signals you can copy. There is always someone on. Listen to the practice sessions broadcast by the W1AW. Get a computer program (Free downloads from the internet) that sends code.

If you passed your Tech, General, and Extra license and are looking for a new challenge, try CW.

W1AW Announces Spring Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Afternoon/Evening Schedule

Time	Mode	Days
2000 UTC (4 PM EDT)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 UTC (4 PM EDT)	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 UTC (5 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily
2200 UTC (6 PM EDT)	Digital	Daily
2300 UTC (7 PM EDT)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 UTC (7 PM EDT)	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 UTC (8 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily
0100 UTC (9 PM EDT)	Digital	Daily
0145 UTC (9:45 PM EDT)	Voice	Daily
0200 UTC (10 PM EDT)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 UTC (10 PM EDT)	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 UTC (11 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies

- CW: 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz
- Digital: 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz
- Voice: 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590, 147.555 MHz

Speeds

- CWs: Morse code practice (slow) -- 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
- CWf: Morse code practice (fast) -- 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
- CWb: Morse code bulletins -- 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

Digital: BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from *QST*; the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds. On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM EDT), Keplerian elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour and CW on the half hour.

“I watch a lot of baseball on the radio.” Gerald R. Ford

Generating Activity on repeaters, simplex and HF

Posted by: "Benjamin L. Naber" benjamin@kb9lfz.com

Wed Jan 18, 2012 9:25 am (PST)

My name is Benjamin Naber, and I've been a ham for 17+ years.

After talking on the local 10M SSB net tonight with some fellow operators, the discussion led to how quite the bands have been, especially our core new comer bands, 2m and 70cm.

For the die hard HFers this applies to you too. There are a load of repeaters out there that faithfully ID every 10 minutes with nothing being said on them all day. I have my icom sitting on scan and

around the same times, the same people get on and talk about the same things. Nothing wrong with it.

There are too many times I've drove thousands of miles on road trip and I'm lucky to hear one person on the band, on the calling frequencies. Why is that?

Why do I say core bands for new comers? Two meters and 70cm are the easiest bands for newly minted radio amateurs to get on. They used to say that over 50% of new hams never get on the air, well I think it's closer to 75% or dreadfully higher.

So to move this one, and generate some activity for the repeater builders to have their machines use, have another reason to modify to fix that radio that's been sitting for a while, or explore a new band such as 900MHz since Alco came out with the first ever amateur 220/900MHz radio.

I implore that fellow amateurs whom are movers and shakers develop an Elmer Program to get the new amateurs on the air, and encourage them to use our beloved repeaters, and make some noise on the calling frequencies, whatever they may be. Be not afraid to exchange your name, call sign and phone numbers with a new-by to get them on your repeater and make some noise.

I also recommend to those whom spend a lot of time in front of the TV, video games, and facebook, to shift their activities to the radio room, position of the house, or even if it's just the car... like mine used to be.

If it were not for a club and someone to Elmer me, I would not be here, 17 years later after receiving my ticket in the mail. Do something to activate our hobby today- Elmer, and get on the air.

Let us use what we have!

~Benjamin, KB9LFZ

Roundup. Call John Lindvay at 455-10561 ASAP to give your name and call sign to operate as a team. We need to register the team prior to the roundup.

1. Mission and Objectives

1.1. Mission: To encourage newly-licensed operators ("Rookies") in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators ("Non-Rookies") are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.

1.2. Object: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read "HF Contesting – Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions" at www.arrl.org/contests/hf-faq.html.

2.1 Time period: The third Sunday of April, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

2.2 Modes: April = SSB
2.3 Frequencies: To find contest activity, tune near these frequencies:

2.3.1. Phone: 3.850, 7.225, 14.240, 21.325, and 28.400 MHz.

2.4 Power: All categories are limited to 100 watts transmitter power output.

3.1.3. Rookie stations may contact Rookie or non-Rookie stations. (Also see 3.4)

3.1.4. Rookie stations are encouraged to identify themselves as a Rookie station by calling "CQ Rookie Roundup" on SSB.

3.2.2. Multioperator stations may transmit only one signal at a time using a single transmitter during the contest.

3.2.4. Multioperator stations are not eligible to participate in team entries.

3.3.1. Team entries may be submitted containing up to five (5) different single operator entries. The single-operator entries will be listed separately in the results. A single-operator entry may be a member of only one team.

3.3.2. Team entries must be registered with the ARRL Contest Branch prior to the contest using the on-line form on the Rookie Roundup web page (www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup). See the Rookie Roundup web page for registration deadlines.

Rookie Round-up

Come out to the club house Sunday, April 15th and operate the Rookie

3.4 Non-Rookie There is no Non-Rookie entry category but experienced operators are encouraged to participate and report their contact totals using the online score reporting form on the Rookie Roundup web page (www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup). NonRookies may call CQ but may only work Rookie stations in the contest. NonRookie stations should call “CQ Rookie” on SSB and “CQ R” on RTTY or CW.

4. Exchange: Call sign of station worked, your call sign, your first name, two-digit number of the year first licensed (“check”) and state, Canadian province, Mexican call area, or “DX”.

Examples:

NØAX from KB1QAW, Carol, 08, Connecticut
KX9X DE VE7XYZ DAVE 07 BC ARRL Rookie Roundup – Rules

23 February 2012

KD2ABC DE XE1KK RAMON 96 XE1

KG6PQR from JH4NMT Toshi 75 DX

4.1. Rookies must have a check from the current year or any of the preceding two calendar years. For example, in the 2012 Rookie Roundup events, Rookies must have a check of 12, 11, or 10.

5. Scoring:

5.1. Points: 2 points for completed QSO between Rookie stations, 1 point for a completed QSO between a Rookie and a Non-Rookie station. Contacts between Non-Rookie stations are not valid contacts in this event.

5.2. Multipliers:

5.2.1. Each US state and the District of Columbia (51 total) – use US postal codes as abbreviations. Be careful – many states have similar spellings and abbreviations! i.e. Missouri is MO, Minnesota is MN, Michigan is MI, Mississippi is MS, Maine is ME, Massachusetts is MA, etc. See the complete list of abbreviations at the end of these rules.

5.2.2. Canadian Provinces (13 total) : See the complete list of abbreviations at the end of these rules.

5.2.3. Mexican call areas (5 total): XE1, XE2, XE3, XF1, and XF4

5.2.4. One generic DX multiplier, which includes contacts with US possessions (such as Puerto Rico KP4 and Guam KH2) and all other entities not listed in

5.2.5. The total number of possible multipliers is 70.

6.1 Stations may be worked once per band.

Multiplier credit is only given once, regardless of band.

6.2. Cross-band and cross-mode QSOs are not permitted. i.e. – Both stations must be on the same band and using the same mode.

6.3 During any single contest, entrants must make all QSOs from the same state, province, call area, or DX entity. i.e. - Your exchange must contain the same location information for all contacts.

6.4. QSOs made through repeaters or digipeaters are not permitted.

6.6. Non-rookie operators are encouraged to assist Rookie operators in person with operating technique and instruction, including acting as the control operator to allow Technician class licensees to transmit with General or Extra class privileges. Non-rookie operators may not, however, make any transmissions from the station or log any contacts.

9.2. All contest queries should be directed to contests@arrl.org or by telephone to 860-594-0232. All contest rules and entry forms may be downloaded from the Contest Branch Web Page at: www.arrl.org/contests.

Save the Date – April 14th

Come Out to the Club House for Breakfast and Clean Up. Eggs, Bacon and Toast and Bagels.

- 1. Wall blocks need fixed.**
- 2. Change furnace tank**
- 3. Plug holes in wall**
- 4. Shutter front windows**
- 5. Check and repair antennas**
- 6. Give the place a thorough cleaning.**

We need some volunteers to help do the things that need done. If you can't donate time, how about donating cleaning supplies, coax, or other items that might be needed to do the above tasks

Ham Radio Calendar

April 7 - Montana QSO Party--Phone, CW, Digital, from Apr 7, 0000Z to Apr 8, 0000Z. Bands (MHz): 1.8-28, 50-432, Frequencies: CW-1.81, 3.54, 7.035, 14.04, 21.05, 28.05 SSB - 1.845, 3.810, 7.244,

14.262, 21.365, 28.325. Exchange: RS(T), S/P/C or MT county. Logs due: May 31.

April 8 – Easter. Buy your XYL an Easter Basket with a new HT in it

April 14 – Club House Spring Clean up Come for breakfast and spring cleaning.

April 14 - Cuyahoga Hamfest
Location: Emidio & Sons Party Center
48 East Bath Road
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2012.html>
Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 147.27+
Public Contact: Ted Sarah , W8TTS
239 Bermont Avenue Munroe Falls, OH 44262
Phone: 330-688-2013
Email: w8tts@w8tts.com

April 14 - Georgia QSO Party RS(T), S/P/C or GA county gqp.contesting.com

April 15 – Tax Day

April 15 - ARRL Rookie Roundup Both calls, name, check, S/P XE# or "DX"
www.arrl.org/contests See web Apr 15, 1800Z - Apr 15, 2359Z

April 21 - Worked All Provinces of China - Test X X RS(T) and serial or province abbreviation
www.mulandxc.org Oct 31 Apr 21, 0000Z - Apr 21, 2359Z (this is for you Joe)

April 21 - Michigan QSO Party, Serial and MI county or S/P/C www.miqp.org 30 days Apr 21, 1600Z - Apr 22, 0400Z CW 45 kHz from band edge, Phone 3.825, 7.200, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450.

April 21 - South Dakota QSO Party RS(T) and SD county or S/P/C www.w0blk.org Apr 21, 1700Z - Apr 22, 1700Z CW - 3.58, 7.035, 14.07; Phone - 1.845, 3.855, 7.180, 14.255, 21.355, 28.455 on SSB; RTTY - 3.585, 7.038, 14.075, 21.075;

April 21- Ontario QSO Party RS(T), S/P/C or Ontario QTH www.va3cco.com Apr 21, 1800Z - See website Multiple operating periods

April 28 - Nebraska QSO Party RS(T), NE county or S/P/C www.hdx.net Apr 28, 1100Z - Apr 29, 1700Z

April 28- Florida QSO Party RS(T), FL county or S/P/C www.floridaqsoparty.org 30 days Apr 28, 1600Z - See website Multiple operating periods and frequency recommendations - see website.

April 29 – March of Dimes Walk at Presque Isle

April 29 – Two Rivers 40th Annual Hamfest. 6001 Smithfield St. Boston, PA 15135. Admission \$5 see info at www.TRARC.net.

May 6 – Ripley Hamfest

“We're on a DXpedition from GØD” --The Blues Brothers
